

Attorney Docket No.: AM-6051.P1 (1630-102)

By Facsimile to: (571) 273-8300

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney would like to thank Examiner Le for the telephone interview conducted on May 10, 2006, and for his suggestions during the interview. The present Request for Continued Examination enables the amendment of the claims along the lines suggested by the Examiner.

As a result of a review of the application in more detail, applicant has amended Paragraph [0020] at page 6, lines 5-10; Paragraph [0075] at page 19, lines 2-7; and Paragraph [0104] at page 30 lines 14-20 to add the units "microinches." It is standard in the sheet metal fabrication industry to express surface roughness in microunits which correspond with the dimensional units for the sheet metal. In the present instance, since all of the sheet metal dimensions are in inches, the surface finish is understood to be in microinches. While one of skill in the art will understand this, the content of the application is more clearly expressed by inclusion of this unit as part of the Ra recitation. If the Examiner does not agree, applicants are willing to leave the application Specification as originally filed.

Claims 1, 6 - 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 - 36, 42, and 44 - 55 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 6 - 14, 16, 18, and 20 to a fluid handling structure and Claims 22 and 24 - 36 to a fluid distribution network architecture have been cancelled without prejudice. Although applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1, 6 - 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24 - 36 are patentable over Morel et al. (U.S. 5,094,268) (as argued by applicant on November 30, 2005, in Amendment "B"), applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice and will re-file these claims at a later time in a continuation application, so that the present application can issue at the earliest possible date.

Claims 45 and 53 - 55 to a method of preparing a gas distribution assembly have been cancelled without prejudice. These claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite on grounds that these claims contain the trademark HASTELLOY® or ELGILOY®. Applicant takes exception to this cancellation because the

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precise composition of the materials known in the art by the trademarks HASTELLOY® and ELGILOY® is specified in the applicants' Specification at Page 26. While applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 45 and 53 - 55 are patentable (as argued by applicant on November 30, 2005, in Amendment "B"), applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice and will re-file these claims at a later time in a continuation application, so that the present application can issue at the earliest possible date.

Applicant will begin manufacture of a gas distribution assembly in July 2006 using the method of preparing a gas distribution assembly claimed in this application. Therefore applicant is choosing to cancel Claims 1, 6 - 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 - 36, 45, and 53 - 55 without prejudice and to pursue the remaining claims to the method of preparing a gas distribution assembly at this time.

Claim 42 has been amended to place the application in better condition for allowance. Claim 42 has been amended to recite that the average surface roughness of said plurality of metal layers ranges from about 0.1 microinches Ra to about 30 microinches Ra. Support for this amendment is present in the Summary of Invention of the originally-filed application, at Page 6, paragraph [0020], lines 6-7, and in the Detailed Description of the Invention at Page 19, paragraph [0075], line 3 and at Page 30, paragraph [0104] lines 14-20.

Support for the amendment to Claim 50 is found in the Detailed Description of the Invention, Pages 40-41 at paragraphs [0133] through [0135], for example, and not by way of limitation. These paragraphs disclose a totally integratable filter which is formed in a multilayered architecture where all of the layers, including the filter, are simultaneously diffusion bonded.

Claim 69 has been added to recite that the average surface roughness of said plurality of layers ranges from about 0.5 microinches Ra to about 10 microinches Ra and Claim 70 has been added to recite that the average surface roughness of said plurality of layers ranges from about 1.5 microinches Ra to about 3 microinches Ra. Support for these additional claims is present in the Summary of Invention of the originally-filed application, at Page 6, paragraph [0020], lines 7-10, and in the Detailed Description of the Invention at Page 19, paragraph [0075], lines 4-7 and at Page 30, paragraph [0104] lines 14-20.

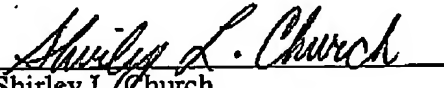
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Applicants contend that the presently pending claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of Claims 42, 44, and 46-52 as being unpatentable over Morel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,094,268).

Applicants contend that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the requested amendments and to pass the application to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney with any questions or suggestions, at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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